

French Intelligence 7-1-32

Para. 14. Arrest of Annamite Communists.

On January 5, members of our section, effected, with the assistance of the Japanese consular police, the arrest of Trung Van Lenh, Vuong Trach and Cao Duc Chinh, at the moment they were embarking the s.s. 'Shanghai Maru' bound for Japan.

Trung Van Lenh is a very important member of the Indo-China Communist Party. His arrest is of more interest than that of Le Quang Dat, effected by our staff on June 5, 1931 (vide our report of June 6, p.3, para.7).

As regards Vuong Trach and Cao Duc Chinh, although they are unknown to the Political Section, they appear to be members of the Indo-China Communist Party, under false names.

O.K. S.B.
Information - The French Police report that all particulars regarding these individuals have been forwarded to you.

S.B.R. 11/1.

O.K. S.B.

Translation of report in question attached.

\$2, I haven't received these particulars
S.B.R. 17/1. *[Signature]*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
& S. D. REGISTRY
S. B. D. 3055
Station,
to 5-1-32
Date January 5, 1932.

Subject (in full) Arrest of three Annamite Communist.

Made by D. S. Umemoto. Forwarded by *[Signature]*

At the instance of the French Police the local Japanese Consular Police arrested three Annamite Communists named Tsang Yuin Ling (張雲領) 28, Lee Mong San (李夢山) 24, and Van Ts Kwong (范雪光) 25, on board the s.s. "Shanghai Maru", berthed at the N.Y.K. Wayside Wharf, at 8.40 a.m. January 5, 1932, prior to its departure for Japan.

They were escorted to the Japanese Consulate-General and subsequently handed over to the French Police.

[Signature]
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

SI, Please note in Daily Intelligence Summary and pass to S2 for further inquiries.

[Signature] 5-1-32.

1.2
6-1-32
[Signature]

[Signature]

Translation from French.

Shanghai, January 6, 1932.

BIOGRAPHY OF TROUNG VAN LENH.

The Indo-China Police have no exact information regarding the identity and antecedents of Troung Van Lenh.

Native of Nghe An, he is believed to have emigrated to Siam in 1924, in company with Le Nhu Phong.

After several months' stay in that country Troung Van Lenh and his comrade left Bangkok for Canton.

Upon arrival in Canton on January 27, 1925, Troung Van Lenh began to take lessons in the Russian language at the school of the "revolutionary peasants propaganda", founded by Liao Tchong Hoi, former Civil Governor of Kwangtung and, at the time in question, head of the Bolshevist group of the Kuomintang.

In April 1925 Troung Van Lenh left the revolutionary propaganda school in order to enter the Officers' School of the Kwangsi Corps.

Following the defeat of General Lau Tchan Wan and the closure of this school, Troung Van Lenh was admitted in the Whampoa Cadet School in September 1925.

While studying at Whampoa he contributed articles to the newspaper "Thanh Nien" (The Youth) since the time of its first appearance.

After failing to pass his examination at the school, Troung Van Lenh was appointed corporal in the Garde Municipale (Canton Police) in August 1926.

In January 1927 he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and put in charge of 90 men. From that time he called himself Nguyen Tuan Gam.

His duties did not prevent him from being actively engaged in the affairs of the revolutionary party and, in May 1927, he wrote to Ho Tung Mau and Lam Duc Thu who were imprisoned following Chiang Kai Shek's anti-communist coup in April, to keep them informed regarding the current affairs of the party.

At the same time, Nguyen Ai Quoc, prior to his flight from Canton, entrusted to Troung Van Lenh the task of entering into relations with the new Cantonese government. Troung Van Lenh did not waste time and immediately made successful applications in favour of his imprisoned compatriots to his Chief and to the Department of Foreign Affairs. Through the assistance of the chief of the Canton Police, Troung Van Lenh obtained, in August 1927, the post of a police company commander, and thanks to the cordial relations which he maintained with his Chief the group of the Annamite revolutionaries in that city enjoyed absolute quietude.

In October (1927 ?) Troung Van Lenh was engaged in the reconciliation of members of Nguyen Ai Quoc's group with those of Nguyen Hai Than's. At the end of the same month he was obliged to resign on account of changes in the staff of the high administration in Canton, and entered the service of General Chang Fat Kwai's Army.

In November 1927, he, as well as Ngo Chinh Quoc, were elected by his comrades to represent Annam at the meeting of the "Oppressed Peoples League".

If one is to believe his co-partisans, Troung Van Lenh at that time still possessed influence in Chinese Military circles in Canton, as he caused the dismissal from the Whampoa School of Nguyen Hai Tan, who had been appointed professor and chief of the Annamite cadets by

General Chang Fat Kwai.

In **January** 1929, when Teng Yuen Hoa, former Chief of the police, resumed his duties, and Troung Van Lenh was appointed "Chief of Section" in the police.

He held this post for one month only, during which time he renewed his applications to the Chinese judicial and police officials in order to release Hong Son.

At that time it appears that he was engaged in carrying on secret propaganda among the boys in Shameen, as he maintained relations with the boy Phan Duc, who was formerly charged by Nguyen Ai Quoc with the special task of spreading the "good words" among his comrades in the French Concession in Shameen.

On February 26, having left his Chief Teng Yuen Hoa, who had to resign, Troung Van Lenh went to Nanking, via Shanghai, in company with Le Quang Dat. The object of that trip was twofold: - 1) to enter in relations with the Chinese communist leaders who had taken refuge in Shanghai - such as Teng Yeng Ta and Tan Hing Chan -, in order to devise a plan of joint action, and 2) to make application on behalf of Hong Son before the Chinese Government in Nanking.

In the beginning of June 1928 they were arrested by the Chinese police in Nanking, but were released almost immediately, thanks to the intervention of their compatriots - students of the Military School in that city.

After being appointed a Captain in the Nanking Military School, Troung Van Lenh accompanied Chiang Kai Shek to Peking in July. A month later, he visited Canton and, after a short stay there, returned to Nanking. From this time on he played a prominent part in the Chinese Communist

Party without being troubled either by his fellow-scholars or by the Chinese authorities, his rank of the Chief of Section of the police, which he still held, placing him above suspicion. However, he did not forget Hong Son and made numerous applications to bring about his release.

In December 1928 Troung Van Lenh and Ho Hoc Lam were elected to represent the Annamite Revolutionary Party at the 3rd General Congress of the "Overseas Peoples League". This congress was held on January 1, 1929 at T'ang K'ang Tse, a place situated at a distance of 300 lis from Dalny. According to the reports of the French Police of Shanghai, the Annamites who participated in that congress were certainly Ly Dat Sinh and Luong Hung Chi. Up to the present time it has not been established whether or not these persons were Troung Van Lenh and Ho Hoc Lam.

Anyhow, Troung Van Lenh held during that period an important post within the "Thanh Kien" Party. Until the month of May 1929, the date of opening of the "Congress of the Representatives of Viet Nam", he participated in the Executive Committee of this Association in the capacity of a honorary member. But he was not elected when the congress terminated.

Troung Van Lenh was in correspondence with the Prince Cuong De. In June 1929, the latter expressed to him his intention of coming to Nanking to attend Sun Yat Sen's burial, and asked for the necessary subsidy, but Troung Van Lenh failed to comply with his request, being not in favour of the Prince's coming to China.

From time to time he participated in the operations of the 4th Chinese Army in Kiangsi. Hong Son who was released in December 1929, and who took up the leadership of the "Tha Nh Nien" Party, succeeded in returning to Nanking

where his intervention was necessary in order to obtain the release of Ho Tung Mau and Le Quang Dat and 15 Annamite cadets at Whampoa who had been imprisoned by the Cantonese police, on December 30, 1928 and January 3, 1929. Troung Van Lenh returned in ~~Haking~~ ⁱⁿ June 1929, as a Lieutenant of the Administrative Service of the 4th Division which was stationed in cantonment in Honan.

Ho Tung Mau and his associates still being imprisoned, Hong Son asked Troung Van Lenh to go to Canton in order to take more active measures for their release, but Van Lenh did not succeed in getting the necessary permission from his chiefs. He then decided to flee and after numerous adventures arrived, on October 20, in Canton where he was received by Hong Son.

On November 2, he was reported to have left for Outcheou where it was said, Le Quang Dat found him a place on the Hoan Viem's General Staff. On the other hand, it was reported that he embarked at Hongkong on November 22, with his destination as Saigon.

In December 1930 he was arrested in Hongkong and taken to Swatow, thence to Canton, where he was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment.

He was arrested in Shanghai on January 5, 1931.

Shanghai, January 6, 1932.

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